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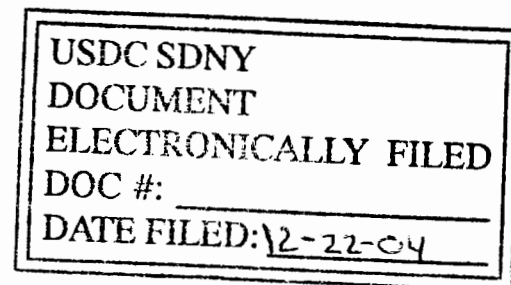
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December 10, 2004

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

The Honorable Richard C. Casey
United States District Court for the District of
New York
United States Courthouse
500 Pearl Street, Room 1950
New York, NY 10007-1312



***In Re: Terrorist Attack on September 11, 2001, MDL No. 1570 (RCC)
Federal Insurance Company, et al. v. al Qaida, et al., 03 CV 6978 (RCC)***

Dear Judge Casey:

I write on behalf of all plaintiffs in the cases comprising *In Re: Terrorists Attacks on September 11, 2001*, 03 MDL 1570 (RCC), to request an extension of time within which to serve certain defendants by publication.

By way of background, on September 15, 2004, this Court granted the joint application of the *Federal Insurance, Ashton and Burnett* plaintiffs to serve 486 defendants who could not be served by traditional means via publication. While the *Federal Insurance, Ashton and Burnett* plaintiffs were prepared to immediately move forward with the service by publication, subsequent developments in the case substantially delayed those efforts. As an initial matter, after entry of this Court's Order, a number of defendants approached the plaintiffs about accepting service, in order to avoid having their names appear on the publication list. The negotiations with defendants who came forward to accept service were not concluded until recently, and as a consequence plaintiffs could not finalize the list of defendants to be included in the publication list until recently.

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Plaintiffs' efforts to move forward with the service by publication were also unavoidably delayed by the applications of other plaintiffs to participate in the publication process. Specifically, on September 28, 2004, Ron Motley wrote to Your Honor to request that the plaintiffs in 10 additional actions be authorized to serve the defendants listed in the Court's September 15, 2004 Order via publication as well. The Court approved that application on September 30, 2004. The participation of those additional plaintiffs in the publication process required the *Federal Insurance*, *Ashton* and *Burnett* plaintiffs to solicit a list of defendants to be served by publication in each of the additional actions, to review those lists to ensure that all defendants submitted were included under the original publication Order, and to reconcile minor discrepancies in the spelling of the names of certain defendants.

The list of defendants to be served by publication has now been finalized, and plaintiffs anticipate that service by publication will begin within the next three weeks.

Pursuant to Paragraph 11 of Case Management Order No. 2, service upon the defendant through alternative means must be made within ninety (90) days of the Court's decision on the Motion for Alternative Service. Due to the developments which have delayed the plaintiffs' efforts to finalize the publication list and initiate the service by publication, plaintiffs do not anticipate that they will be able to make service by publication within ninety (90) days of the Court's Order approving publication. Accordingly, plaintiffs respectfully write to request an extension of the deadline for effecting service via publication up to and including March 1, 2005.

The plaintiffs thank Your Honor in advance for the Court's consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

COZEN O'CONNOR



BY: SEAN P. CARTER

SPC/bdw

cc: All Counsel of Record

Application granted



12/21/04